

First Lutheran Church
309 Ninth Street North
Northwood, IA 50459

Office hours
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9am – 2:00pm
 Wednesday, 9am- 12pm, Fridays, closed.
www.flcnorthwood.org
Office Phone: 641-324-2984
E-mail: flc@flcnorthwood.org

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Permit No. 33

First Lutheran Focus

January 2024

Address Service Requested

<u>Week</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
January 7	Team 3	Delores Knudson	Solberg family	Solberg family	Owen Binnebose Aydan Schutz
January 14	Team 4	Megan Ott	Jake Urbatsch	Urbatsch family	Ivy Urbatsch Amaya Rugland
January 21	Team 5	6 th Grade Class	Johnson family	Johnson family	Jaxon Reyerson Bryck Abrams
January 28	Team 1	Linda Griffith	Haxton family	Haxton family	Tucker Duvall

Communion Set up:

January 7 Coni Butler
 January 21 Pat Nelson

Altar Candles:

January 7-14 David Petznick
 January 21-28 Pat Nelson

PASTOR'S PAGE

Jeremiah 29:11

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

These two passages rank high on my list of favorites and are frequently referenced. What are your go-to verses? How about favorite hymns. My favorite is “my life flows on in endless song, above earth’s lamentation how can I keep from singing.”

The New Year is beginning full of hope and excitement because God is walking with each of us each and every day. I don’t have plans for a specific resolution other than living with a song in my heart and on my tongue.

What are your plans for this new year? Here are some suggestions:

- Strengthen your private devotional life.
- Take time to read the Bible and pray each day because it is as important as eating right and exercising daily. Prayer is a wonderful time to pray for the needs of others. And prayer is a good place to ask for God’s direction in life.
- What are the gifts that God has given you?
- What new and exciting focus is God calling you to?
- Where will you proclaim God’s presence and witness to Jesus Christ in your life?
- Where will you be the hands and feet of Christ this year?
- How will you give thanks for all God has done for you?

Be brave and write down your plan and share it with someone you trust that will be your accountability partner.

Our journey of faith is an important part of balance in our lives – but it doesn’t just happen to you. It involves you actively doing your part in worship, prayer, learning, sharing, giving of time and talents, faithful stewardship – all those things which come to us as a gift from God. Make a commitment to walking dialing with Jesus and you will find the journey exciting!

In Christ,
Pastor Becky

PASTORAL ACTS - 2024

Funeral

Phyllis Mortenson	12/22/23
Larry Gentz	12/22/23
JoAnn Julson	12/28/23

Baptism

Hudson Edward Haxton	12/10/23
----------------------	----------

YOUTH NEWS

Wow – just like that we're at the end of 2023! It seems like things just keep going faster and faster, and rarely slow down (but we all know there will be lots of snow and freezing temperatures to make this winter seem really long!)

Winter Break has been a very busy time in the Youth room, with lots of college kids back and hanging out and sharing about the life changing experiences they're going through. Having 2 lock-ins during that same time also allows for a different kind of bonding time for our kids. Special thanks to Pastor Becky for coming in at 5:00 AM to allow me time to go home and sleep!

A Pain was the first lesson we had this past month. We talked about all the different kinds of pain there are and how strong God has made us to be able to get through the mental, physical, emotional and faith crisis pains that there are. Romans 8:18 was the focus of that night “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” That is a verse we all need to keep in mind when we're going through it, and especially our teens as they go through school trying to stay true to themselves and who God has created them to be.

The last two lessons of the year dealt with the true meaning of Christmas, as well as figuring out if we are blessing people with our presence or hurting them, and what does God want us to do. Those final two lessons of the year both had the same Bible verse as their focus – Matthew 1:21 “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

I look forward to this new year. The chance to continue with an amazing group of teens, a family that is awesome, a staff that makes coming to “work” never seem like it is work, and for a Church congregation that sees the importance of teaching the students of our church and community!



Regular Council Meeting
November 21, 2023
First Lutheran Church - Northwood

In Attendance: Kimberly A., Gina S., Connie K., Weston W., Mariah B.,
Doug F., Kris K., Rich S., Nikkole K., Megan O.

Our meeting began with members of the Deer Creek Valley Council as well.

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion - Connie Kennison

We Celebrate Our Past

Presidential Correspondence - Nikkole K. - No Updates

Secretary's Report - Megan O. - Technical Difficulties. Minutes to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Matt J. - Jan communicated that we've got positive numbers on the reports!

Contributions and gifts are up in comparison to recent times. We were given reassurance that all expenses are done so wisely and with necessity. Budget is being managed carefully.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Becky Sogge - Things are going well. The buzz word for ELCA has been Vitality! We have 17 kids participating in confirmation. Working with the school for cooperation and balance with practices and scheduling. Mark has a fantastic impact on the younger generation(s) and their involvement. We have three young adults wishing to be baptized. His mentality of open arms, making all feel welcome to come and spend time together.

Pastor took a moment to ask what excites us? Reminding us of the importance of the council. Ideas were shared for the next coming months: visiting each other's churches, maybe a music "fest" with members from our very talented congregations, a generation's day of teaching lost skills, etc. How do we connect with each other? We were also reminded of the people in the congregation who are able to help with visits and community support aspects.

Annual meeting will be held January 28, 2024. Our worship service will be abbreviated in order to accommodate timing.

Christmas Eve Service will be held 4:00pm at First Lutheran and 8:00pm at Deer Creek Valley.

Christmas Day Service will be held at 10:00am at First Lutheran Church with a meal to follow.

December 31st will be Christmas Hymn Service

MMSP - Doug/Connie

We Present our Offering

Finance - Matt J. - Budget proposal to be presented and voted on in December. Main increases will be from staff raises and insurance costs.

Worship - Kimberly A. - Last meeting was November 9, 2023. Delores led the meeting. Hymns were selected through November. The organ was tuned. Decorations to be placed November 30, 2023 at 5:00pm with a meal to follow.

Inspire - Gina S. - No recent meetings. Attendance has been good. Discussions and ideas for Christmas to be had. The structure is getting much more familiar with many different readers for the recordings. Things are also being well received by the youth.

Stewardship - Connie K. - Unsure of the next meeting day.

Youth - Weston W. - Nothing New. New Years Eve Mark is planning to take the 20 somethings to Switchfoot at the Surf Ballroom. Attendance has been steady, typically 15 or so "Jr's" on Sundays and 25/30 "Sr's" on Wednesdays.

Education - Mariah B. - The Christmas program will be the 17th of December at 9am. They will have cookies and treats to follow. They are working on getting the kids ready. Best year for attendance with both the kids and parents! Things are going very well.

Property - Doug F. - They are working on bids for gutters and necessary accessories. Two have come through from a company in Nora Springs and another from Clear Lake.

A motion was made to approve the bid from CBT for \$27,278 including gutters, screens, downspouts. A grant will be applied for to cover costs.

MMSP by Kris and Gina

They are also working on updating the water fountains to include bottle filler spouts.

Alliant Energy and Solar Panels - At this time they are uncertain of progress. Alliant has communicated that their policies have changed and as of 2023 everything needs to be a true 3 phase electrical system. (From Google: Three-phase power is a three-wire ac power circuit with each phase ac signal 120 electrical degrees apart. Residential homes are usually served by a single-phase power supply, while commercial and industrial facilities usually use a three-phase supply.) Alliant is estimating \$72,000 to do the work to get us to a point to be able to begin the phases of the solar panels. Alliant is dragging their feet, and soon we will run out of time to utilize the grant received for the solar panel phase 1. We will need to apply for a grant in order to get the upgrades, but because we have already received one for phase 1, we cannot apply for another for that step. Phase 1 was preparing and placing the solar panels. Fundraising within the church will need to be done to pay. We were given no warning or communication from Alliant that this would be an issue prior to applying and proceeding with the grant. There was no way of knowing this would happen. Alliant also wishes to put the Three phase wiring underground. They plan to do this in the area, but it could be 5-10 years before they actually proceed. The closest three phase electricity is at least 3 blocks away from us. There will be costs to get those lines to us as well. The longer we wait, the more things are going to cost. We are definitely in a tough spot.

Mission - Kris K. - Nothing to update. Discussions were held about new places to give the noisy offering. Ideas/opportunities to be discussed at a later date.

Fellowship- Rich S. - Still working and planning a Christmas Day Community Meal. Meal to be served following the Christmas Day service. This will be paid for through Thrivent.

Concerns for the Present:

Communion: should it be held in the aisle or at the rail? - Trying to figure out what people truly want. The rail provides difficulty for those who do not wish to use the stairs or walk up the ramp, difficulty with mobility to kneel, etc.

Ideas about laminated "I Give Electronically" cards to still "give" at offering.

The giving tree has been well received.

Operation ShoeBox done by Sunday School/Confirmation

Communion Servers:

December 3: Gina Connie

December 25: Nikkole and Doug

We Go Out in God's Name

Motion to Adjourn MMSP Mariah/ Kimberly



Congratulations to Derek and Ashley Haxton on the baptism of their son, Hudson Edward. He was baptized on December 10th; his sponsors are Chelsea and Ryan Amundson.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the Reeder family. Phyllis Mortenson passed away on Wednesday, December 13th. Her funeral was at Shroeder and Sites funeral home on Friday, December 22nd at 11:00am.

We offer our condolences to the Gentz family. Larry Gentz passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 16th at MercyOne, surrounded by his family. His funeral was held here at FLC at 1:30pm on Friday, December 22nd.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of JoAnn Julson. She passed away on Thursday, December 21st at LRH. Her funeral will be held Thursday, December 28th at 11:00am.

Thank you to the FLW for their card and Christmas gift. I loved the Christmas card with the beautiful picture of the sanctuary. -*Christa Trenhaile*

First Lutheran, thank you for your generous gift of money to Manna of Worth County; it is greatly appreciated.

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 28th at 9:00am. We will have a brief time of worship and go right into the meeting.

Please bring your spare change for Noisy Offering on Sunday, January 14th and 28th. This offering goes to the mission of the month which is Riverside Bible Camp.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all the worship helpers who contributed their time throughout this last year. We are still looking for more individuals and families that would be willing to do the following: communion set up, altar candles, changing paraments, ushering and greeting.

If you are interested in helping with any of the jobs listed please speak with, call, or email Pastor Becky or Christa as we are working on the 2024 schedule.



Poinsettias

*In Memory of Hellen Holstad,
given by First Lutheran Altar Guild*

*In Memory of Gabriel Wheeler,
given by Kris & Jayne Wheeler*

*In Memory of Ed & Helen Senne
given by Mary Jo Senne*

*In Memory of Loved Ones,
given by Carol Liljidaahl*

*In Memory of All loved ones,
given by Jan & Duane Thompson*

*In Memory of Merle, Steve & Sharon Aase,
given by Sally Aase*

*In Memory of family & friends,
given by David & Sharron Petznick*

*In Memory of Sharyl Nestor,
given by Julia Circle*

*In Memory of Helen Ringham,
given by Juila Circle*

*In Honor of Family and Friends,
given by Dick and Gladie Hagen*

*In Memory of Our Loved Ones,
given by Gary & June Nerlien and Family*

*In Memory of Bonnie Schutz and Dorothy Navratil,
given by the Navratil Family*

*In Honor of Loved Ones,
given by Keith & Fran Olson*

*In Memory of Sharyl Nestor, Jeanette Knutson, Gary Knutson,
Cornell & Illa Knutson
given by Tim Knutson*

Annual Meeting Deadline for Reports

The Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28th 9:00am. The deadline for all committee reports is Monday, January 8th. The best way to send your reports is by emailing a word, publisher or excel file. We can also use a PDF document or hard copy printed out but it is not ideal and takes more office time to make it work in the report. If you have any questions please call or email Christa at christa@flcnorthwood.org or 641-324-2984.



QR Code for Vanco Online Giving

How do I scan a QRC code?

Open the camera app on your cell phone or tablet. Point the camera at the QR code. Tap the banner that appears on your phone or tablet. Follow the instructions on the screen to create an account to manage your online offerings.



**Join us on Wednesday's at 6:15 pm for
fellowship, fun, and music!
Come as you are!**

First Lutheran Mission

November 2023

Bremwood	\$ 137.46
Bibles/Catechisms	\$ 312.35
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 147.58
Education Fund	\$ 140.51
Youth Fund	\$ 487.08
Sunday School Fund	\$ 250.00
Caring Tree	\$ 147.58
Meals on Wheels	\$ 276.07
Manna	\$ 121.06
Heifer International	\$ 327.39
Riverside Bible Camp	\$ 35.21
Campers Fund	\$ 125.21
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 157.88
Lutheran Services	\$ 200.27
Dayspring Children's Village	\$ 258.40
Northern Lights Shelter	\$
LRH Auxiliary	\$ 138.61
TOTAL	\$ 3,167.38

Donations

\$350.00	- Social Ministry
\$327.39	- Heifer International
\$85.21	- LRH Auxiliary
\$85.00	- Meals on Wheels

Memorials

Wanda Hoffman	\$295	-General Fund
Sharyl Nestor	\$20	-General Fund
Larry Gentz	\$25	-General Fund
Ronald Shovan & Fred & Stella Stehn	\$500	-General Fund
Wanda Hoffman	\$245	-Music Fund
Wanda Hoffman	\$225	-Organ Fund

First Lutheran Financial Update

November 2023

Income	\$12,387.59
Electronic Income	\$3,549.05
Expense	(\$19,146.46)
End of Month	(\$3,209.82)
<u>YTD as of October 31</u>	
Income	\$181,632.30
Electronic Income	\$40,837.70
Inspire	\$2,609.00
Use of Church	\$795.00
Expense	(\$215,867.26)
End of Month	\$10,006.74

November General Budget Expenses

PAYROLL:	\$ 12,315.02
E-GIVING EXPENSE	\$ 47.61
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$ 184.29
UTILITIES	\$ 1,406.37
TELEPHONE	\$ 215.80
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 591.58
WORSHIP 1	\$ 528.54
INSURANCE	\$ 3,332.25
SUPPLY PASTOR	\$ 150.00
N. IOWA SYNOD	\$ 375.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 19,146.46
INCOME	\$ 15,936.64
NET	\$ (3,209.82)

Mission Project for January

Riverside Bible Camp

Share Shoppe

Saturday, January 6th

Staff Phone Numbers

Pastor Sogge	612-718-9151
Mark Willand	641-390-1032
Troy Bachtle	641-430-8305
Jan Thompson	641-390-0883
Christa Trenhaile	641-390-0484



- 1) Isaac Adams, Gretchen Hengesteg, Eric Roerish, Grady Walk, Colby Trenhaile
- 2) Ethan Binnebose, Tristan Hanson, Shelby Mattern, Sawyer Ogea, Diane Ubben
- 3) Michael Read
- 4) Chase Boyden
- 5) Michelle Schulz
- 6) Bryck Abrams, Kristen Eilertson
- 7) Stephanie Harmon
- 8)
- 9) Sandra Sime
- 10)
- 11) Amy Hennigar, Justin Nerlien
- 12) Roger Odegaard, Joann Ogea, Zoey Andreasen
- 13) Jayson Olson
- 14)
- 15) Connie Fett, Eldora Stehn
- 16) Brian Costello, Dayna Strauss, Landen Nelson, Michelle Petznick, Nolan Senne, Blake Stevens
- 17) Zachary Costello
- 18) Breckan Willier
- 19) Bonnie Roppe, Jason Solberg
- 20) Collin Houg
- 21) Shana Brunsvold, Carl Dralla, Olivia Urbatsch
- 22) Charles Hengesteg, Travis Johnson
- 23) Josh Mattern
- 24) Chad Nelson, Loghan Nelson, Judy Stevens
- 25) Hallie Hanson, Jason Hanson, Dianne Johnson, Emersyn Wahl, Nate Wilder
- 26) Josie Einertson, Sonya Medlang, Michele Schaefer, Matthew Tufte
- 27) Megan Gentz
- 28) Barnes Toresdahl
- 29) John Midtgaard, Galen Pixley, Karen Pixley, Thomas Watts
- 30) Sally Aase
- 31) Douglas Fallgatter, Tanya Hebrink, Ward Willand

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day	2 Manna Truck 11:00am: Staff Mtng. 6pm: Worship Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	3 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	4 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	5	6
7 <u>Baptism of our Lord</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C 6:30pm: JH. Youth	8	9 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	10 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	11 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo 7:00pm: Pub Theology	12	13
14 <u>Epiphany 2</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	15 M L King Day	16 Manna Truck 11:00am: Staff 6:00pm: Council Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	17 2:00pm: M. Court Chapel 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	18 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	19	20
21 <u>Epiphany 3</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C 3:00pm: LRH 6:30pm: JH. Youth	22	23 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	24 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	25 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo 7:00pm: Pub Theology	26	27
28 <u>Epiphany 4</u> 9:00am: Annual Meeting 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	29	30 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	31 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth			

